

The Arlington Connection

William Burley, Chairman of the
Arlington Community Reentry
Council and Teya West, Director
of Local Probation.



House Explodes
After Flares Fired

PAGE 3

Melwood Partners
with Wesley Housing

PAGE 4

AWLA Supporters
Hit Triple the Goal

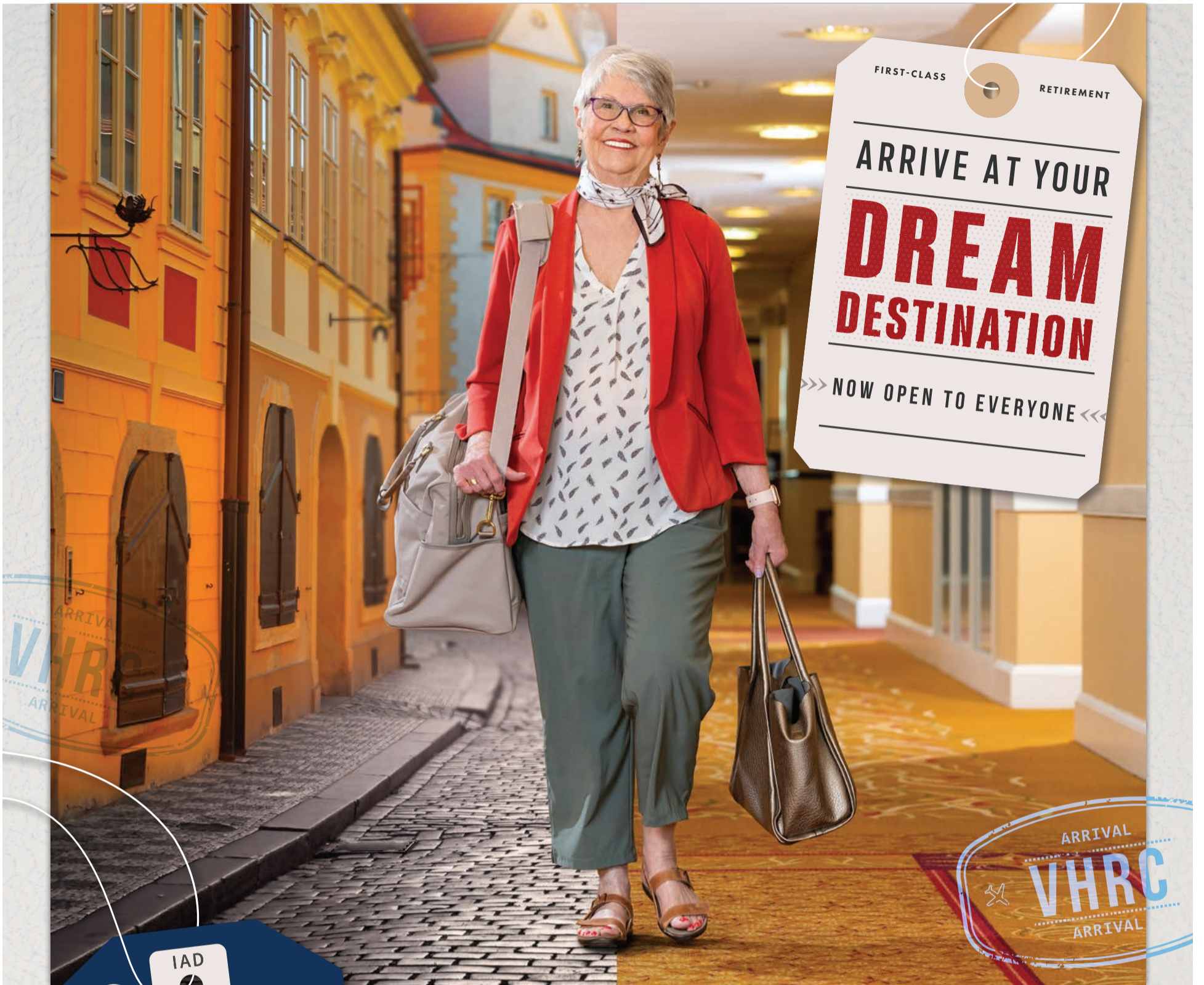
PAGE 7

Winter Help
For Re-entry

PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ LETTERS TO SANTA, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



FIRST-CLASS RETIREMENT

ARRIVE AT YOUR

DREAM DESTINATION

»» NOW OPEN TO EVERYONE ««

ARRIVAL

VHRC

ARRIVAL

ARRIVAL

VHRC

ARRIVAL

IAD 156967

FIRST-CLASS RETIREMENT

VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

VH

Equal Housing Opportunity

Accessibility icon

PLAN YOUR NEXT GREAT ADVENTURE

Vinson Hall Retirement Community residents come from a variety of backgrounds, but they have one thing in common: a spirit of adventure. They are curious, engaged, well-traveled and excited about their next chapter. And they all love calling our community home. From art classes and pickleball to lively meals and happy hours on campus, there's no shortage of activities and entertainment. When you have seen all the wonders of the world, you want to make sure your home base measures up.

Whether they are returning from a vacation to Italy or a trip to the grocery store, our residents love coming home to Vinson Hall Retirement Community – now open to everyone! From friendly faces and exciting social activities to an experienced team on your side, discover the endless possibilities of a first-rate retirement.

»»»»» CALL 703-935-1438 OR VISIT VINSONHALL.ORG TODAY TO PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL «««««

Home Explosion After Flares Fired

It could be the video of the year, an Arlington house engulfed in a fireball, then blowing up with all the pieces of the house propelled high in the air. The explosion was felt and seen throughout the area. Google and watch the video if you haven't already seen it many times.

The Arlington County Board released a statement on Tuesday, Dec. 5, saying they were "relieved to hear confirmation that last night's explosion of the duplex in the Bluemont neighborhood did not result in any significant injuries to nearby residents or the officers attempting to bring the related stand-off to a peaceful resolution."

But the homeowner, identified by police as Jame Yoo, is presumed dead in the wreckage of the house; human remains were found in

the aftermath.

"My family and I are fine but our house shook and we could see the flames from our front yard," said Del. Patrick Hope. Many others echoed his words. Hope thanked the Arlington police department and fire department for being "on the scene of a very dangerous situation tonight."

The Board's statement cited the Arlington County Police Department for their "patience, skill, and bravery" as well as the Fire Department's quick response to bringing a rare and challenging explosion under control and minimizing collateral damage.

The Red Cross was on the scene supporting resident evacuations. The FBI and ATF are assisting in this ongoing investigation.

At approximately 4:45 p.m. on Dec. 4, the

Arlington County Police Department was dispatched to the 800 block of N. Burlington Street for the report of possible shots heard. The preliminary investigation indicated a suspect discharged a flare gun approximately 30 – 40 times from inside his residence into the surrounding neighborhood. No property damage or injuries were reported related to the discharge of the flare gun. Some residents described the firing of the flares as looking like fireballs.

During the course of the investigation, officers obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence and attempted to make contact with the suspect over the telephone and through loudspeakers. The suspect did not respond and remained barricaded inside the house.

As officers were attempting to execute the search warrant, the suspect discharged several rounds, from what is believed to be a firearm, inside the home. Subsequently, at approximately 8:25 p.m., an explosion occurred at the residence. The investigation into the circumstances of the explosion are ongoing.

The Arlington County Fire Department responded to the scene to extinguish the fire. As of approximately 10:30 p.m., the fire was under control and crews continued to battle small spot fires.

Three officers reported minor injuries but there were no transports to the hospital related to this incident. The investigation is ongoing.

Watch the County's Press Conference for more information.

Reentry Council Sponsors Winter to Help Event

Coats, hats, clothes and footwear were in demand at Walter Reed Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Arlington Community Reentry Council's Winter Giveaway Event.

The event was held for individuals reentering society from incarceration and their families. William Burley, Chairman of the volunteer Arlington Community Reentry Council, says a family came with a small child and several homeless individuals from DHS who took sweatshirts, clothes, snacks and blankets.

Burley added that they had a number of the 20 Arlington community stakeholders who support the Reentry Council represented at the event, and homeless people had a chance to visit with groups like Offenders Aid Restoration (OAR) and Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to see what resources are available to them.

"If you don't have to worry about your food for a week, you can concentrate on your bills. It really helps."

The giveaway items had been donated by members of the Arlington stakeholders community. "For instance the District parole officers donated a lot of knit hats; Catholic Charities donated sweatshirts and I think the blankets came from the Public Defender's Office. Everyone contributed."

Burley said the Reentry Council and stakeholders meet once a month, and one of the things they do is help staff cases if any agency has a problem with a client.

"For instance, I recently took a case of a person returning to the community who was homeless. I brought it to the Council, and Department of Human Services (DHS) said if we could get the person here they could provide shelter, and AFAC could provide with food and OAR could provide a couple of nights in a hotel until things were stable.



William Burley, Chairman of the Arlington Community Reentry Council and Teya West, Director of Local Probation.



Stephannie Ku, representing OAR at Winter Giveaway Event.



Reentry Council's Winter Giveaway Event on Saturday, Dec. 2.

"That's what we do at Council. We try to develop a roadmap for when they get out.

We try to anticipate problems. If they have a mental [health] crisis, then this. If some-

thing else, then that."

Burley said, "We just celebrated our first year anniversary as an organization in November so a lot of people don't know about us yet and what we do. We're hoping to get out the word so we can help more people live a better life and avoid recidivism."

Their next event will be Family Orientation in March 2024. This event will provide an opportunity for returning citizens and their families to meet with multiple community service providers in one location in an effort to gain information and access to services.

The Arlington Council is part of the Virginia Community Reentry Initiative which is a community-based reentry approach unique in its integration of human services and public safety. It was a governor's initiative in 2011 that is being voluntarily implemented by a number of Virginia localities.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

New Partnership to Provide Affordable Housing

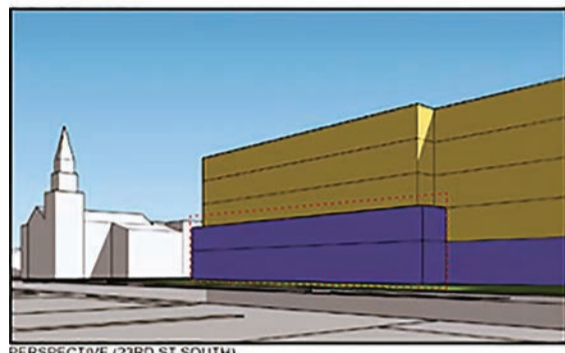
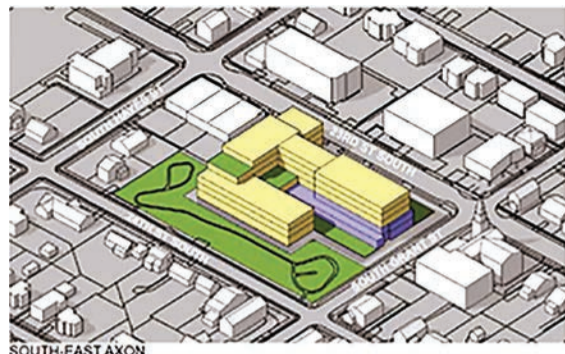
BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Melwood and Wesley Housing have partnered to convert a current Arlington Melwood property into an affordable and inclusive housing project combined with programs and services for people with disabilities. This project is located at 750 23rd Street S in Arlington.

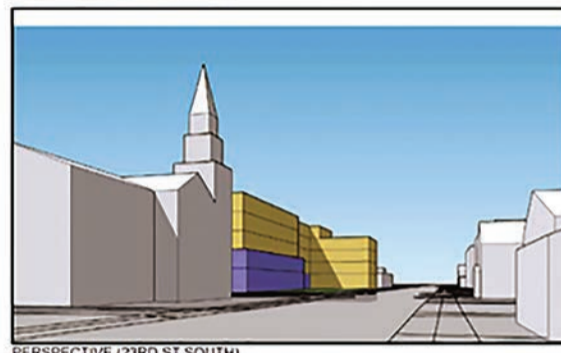
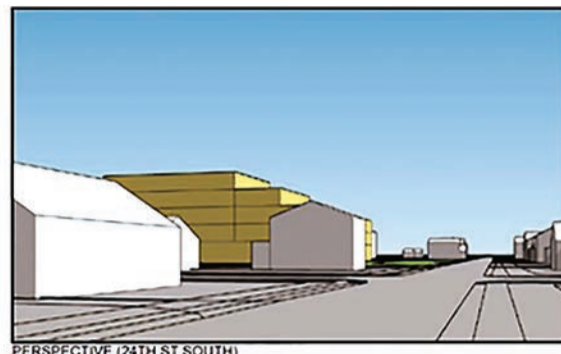
The new project will create 100+ units of affordable housing with up to 30 units designed and designated with a priority preference for people with disabilities. The affordable housing will go to households averaging 60 percent of the area median income (AMI) of \$72,360 for a household of two with some set aside for families with very low incomes of 30 percent of AMI.

Melwood is a leading national employer and preferred provider for people with disabilities offering job placement, job training, life skills for independence and support services to more than 3,000 people in DC, Maryland and Virginia.

“The collaboration with Wesley Housing has the power to transform the lives of people with disabilities and support Arlington’s continued leadership in building an inclusive community,” said



Conceptual early design of new housing project.



GRAPHIC CONTRIBUTED

Larysa Kautz, President and CEO of Melwood.

Jewelyn Cosgrove, Vice President of Government and Public Relations at Melwood gave an example of the positive impacts. “Emma Budway comes to mind when sharing positive stories of impact that Melwood has made in other housing efforts. She is a non-speaking autistic woman who was able to

separate herself from her legal guardian for the first time thanks to Melwood and Our Stomping Ground’s partnership fostering a similar community. She moved into her own apartment with a roommate of her choice, giving her a kind of autonomy and independence that she had never known before, and allowing her to make personal connections with a circle

of friends and support throughout the pandemic.”

Wesley Housing is a nonprofit developer in Northern Virginia and DC that has worked to provide affordable rental housing for individuals and families for nearly 50 years, acquiring over 1,900 rental units to provide quality housing for thousands of at-risk individuals and families each year. This part-

nership furthers their shared mission of ensuring equitable access for people to live, work and thrive in their communities.

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce expressed their strong support in a letter Nov. 14 to the Arlington Long Range Planning Committee. “Arlington and Northern Virginia at large are facing a shortage of affordable housing for our residents.

Finding an affordable place to live independently in the Northern Virginia region is already difficult, and the barriers are greater for people with disabilities.

This project would help alleviate the shortage of affordable housing, and further the goal of the Livability 22202 Action Plan providing ‘a diversity of housing types, from single family homes to townhouses, condominiums and apartments.’”

Currently Melwood operates professional and personal development programs out of the Arlington location including quality day care habilitation and their abillT program which trains people with disabilities for careers in tech and tech-adjacent jobs. The new development is in the early stages as they work through land use issues and hope to seek tax credit financing in 2025 and to break ground shortly thereafter.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner’s ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program’s goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2.

Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org for more.

ONGOING

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary

increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW’s research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home’s natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/ for more.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or esiqveland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, virtually. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot,

please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacare-connections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

Arlington County, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission’s Equality Task Force, has launched a web page with resources for the LGBTQ community. The new webpage compiles LGBTQ resources on a variety of topics, including homelessness and housing, domestic violence and sexual assault, and health. There are also topics specifically for teens and youth — such as scholarship opportunities and school clubs — as well as ones targeted at seniors and older adults, such as SAGE. Visit topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources.

Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington’s community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera to listen to programs. MICHAEL W. SMITH Returns to The Birchmere, May 19, 2022, 7:30pm, Alexandria, VA.

Volunteer Bike Repair Night. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

Public Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline. Arlington County launched a new public hotline that offers a confidential and secure way to report suspected incidents of financial

fraud, waste and abuse. Anyone can submit a complaint to the hotline at 1-866-565-9206 or at arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com. The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages.

Created by the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) in partnership with the Arlington Public Library, the nation’s First Energy Lending Library made its debut on Earth Day. Meant to resolve energy issues in the Arlington community, efficiency tools such thermal imaging cameras, energy meters and books play a vital role in achieving a “greener” home. Open Sun-Sat 10 a.m.-9 p.m. 1015 N. Quincy St. Visit library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library or call 703-228-5990.

Arlington Rotary Club Lunches. Thursdays, 12 - 1:30 p.m. now on Zoom. Organization brings together political and business leaders for humanitarian services. Listen to guest speakers on various topics of interest. Visit <https://arlingtonrotaryclub.org/>

Job Seeking Help. 5-9 p.m. at Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Receive job-related help from the staff and volunteers with applications. Free, but requires registration. Visit www.arlingtonva.libcal.com.

Arlington PFLAG Community Group. 7:30-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, PFLAG promotes the equality and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

ENTERTAINMENT

Color | Up Close & Personal

A GROUP SHOW BY MARCIA KATZ, JUDITH LANDRY, & SALLY SLIFKIN



November 27–December 29, 2023

Opening Reception
Friday, December 1, 2023 | 5–7 pm

Up Close & Personal will be shown at Gallery Underground in Arlington now thru Dec. 29, 2023.

NOV. 27 TO DEC. 29

December at Gallery Underground:

Color | Up Close & Personal.

Marcia Katz, Judy Landry, and Sally Slifkin have been painting together for several years. All three artists have been active members of the Arlington Artists Alliance for many years as well. Though they have found that their artistic styles are distinctly different, each has always been very interested in color. Their interests range from how certain colors work next to each other, to unique color choices representing light and shadow, to articulating how a painting comes alive using color.

LIGHT THE WORLD GIVING MACHINES

For the second year in a row, Ballston Quarter in Arlington is one of 61 locations around the world getting a unique chance to support local and global charities with the Light The World Giving Machines. The Giving Machines are just like regular vending machines but with a twist. Instead of swiping your card and receiving a treat for yourself, the Light The World Giving Machines allow individuals to swipe their card and donate products and services to charities in the DMV and around the world. The Giving Machines will be located at Ballston Quarter, 4238 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington.

DEC. 7-10

Light the Plaza. At Central Place Plaza, Rosslyn, Arlington. If you stop by Central Place Plaza this week, you'll see Rosslyn Cheer preparations are well underway! The festivities include Light the Plaza on Thursday, Dec. 7, where they'll have live music, drinks, raffle prizes, and more as they brighten up the neighborhood with holiday lights. Then, they'll have fun for the four-legged friends heading into the weekend with Santa Paws Yappy Hour on Friday, Dec. 8, complete with puppuccinos, human refreshments, and pictures with Santa. On Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., shop the Holiday Market for a variety of local gifts and goodies, plus complimentary gift wrapping, free hot chocolate, and more. Visit Central Place Plaza

for tons of holiday fun!

DEC. 8-10, DEC. 15-17

Del Ray Artisans 28th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Free admission. First three weekends in December (Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17), plus bonus market days Dec. 22 & 23. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours for Friday, Dec. 22 are 3-9 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

DEC. 8-10

Arlington Artists Alliance's Winter Artful Weekend. Don't miss Winter Artful Weekend in its 21st year! This art event will showcase nearly 40 artists from the Arlington Artists Alliance and is perfect for holiday shopping. This event is free and open to the public. Find original works for every budget and occasion, featuring: Paintings, Mixed Media, Glass and Ceramic Art, Jewelry, Shrink-wraps, and Note cards and Magnets. Dates: Friday, December 8 from 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, December 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Opening Reception: December 8, 6-8 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, the headliner for December's show is the hilarious Christian Escoto.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Arlington Chorale, Of All The Kings. 5 p.m. At Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Dr., Arlington. Created in collaboration with the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, this performance will feature familiar holiday tunes like Nat King Cole's timeless classic, "The Christmas

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6



ICE!

FEATURING
RUDOLPH
THE
RED-NOSED REINDEER

ICE! is a dazzling, immersive, story-driven holiday showplace complete with larger-than-life ice sculptures, thrilling frozen slides, and awe-inspiring tunnels. Come experience the splendor of the holiday season at Gaylord National. Secure your tickets before they are gone.

NOV. 19 - DEC. 31
ChristmasAtGaylordNational.com

SO. MUCH CHRISTMAS.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and all related elements © & ™ under license to Character Arts, LLC. All rights reserved.



Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

Free Estimates **703-999-2929**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Make the smart and **ONLY CHOICE** when tackling your roof!



ERIC Metal Roofs
FREE ESTIMATE
1.844.902.4611
 Expires 12/31/2023

Limited Time offer!
SAVE!
 Up to **50% OFF**
 ON YOUR INSTALLATION
 +
 TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% OFF
 Additional savings for military health workers and first responders

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Eric Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Eric"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Eric or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservices.compliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at ericmetalroofs.com/eric-licenses/. VA License Number: 2705029944.



**It's not just a generator.
 It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$735.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

Leaf Filter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS
 GUTTER PROTECTION
FOREVER

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **0%**
 YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY! APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

USA Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%. Effective: 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-451-5921 for complete details. 27th leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America.* For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LHM/Mercer Group in Ohio. AR #036920922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC0649005, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #0595944, MA #176447, MD #MHC148325, MI # 2102212986, #762000403, #2106212946, NE #R731804, NY #226192, ND 47304, OH #0145-22, NJ #134H05953900, NM #4086953, NV #0086990, NY #119114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #270516445, WA #LEAFNW822JZ, WY #W056912.

CLASSIFIED
 WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
 TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Legals

ABC LICENSE
 Rehobotnow LLC trading as Sun Deli & Market, 1401 Taft St., Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22201 + 2618. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Retail Specially Establishment App-Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ghenet Mihtsun, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE
 Tiger Dumplings LLC trading as Tiger Dumplings, 3225 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22201-4415. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer and Mixed Beverage Restaurant for 1-100 seats license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Leopold Lian, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

ABC LICENSE
 Colada Shop Clarendon LLC trading as Colada Shop, 1440 N Edgewood St, STE 160, Arlington, Arlington County VA 22201-7037. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kulraj Multani, Officer/The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
 IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY**

\$1000 OFF*
 AND
**No Payments & No Interest
 For 18 Months****

OFFER EXPIRES 12.31.2023

BCI BATH & SHOWER

CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 12/31/23. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2023 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

**Sign up for
 FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
 to all of our papers**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

**Find us on Facebook
 and become a fan!**

www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers

THE CONNECTION
 Newspapers & Online
 The Connection to Your Community

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 5

Song," and will introduce Margaret Bonds' The Ballad of the Brown King, a rarely performed 1954 work with libretto by Langston Hughes that tells the captivating story of Balthazar—one of the Three Wise Men—and weaves together elements of spirituals, gospel, and classical music.

DEC. 9-10
Jane Franklin Dance Presents Set. 7 p.m. on Saturday; 4 p.m. on Sunday. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Jane Franklin Dance returns to Theatre on the Run with a collection of dances by 6 choreographers that reflect history, emotion and identity. Featuring: Philip Barooidan, Ryan Carlough, Michala Conroy, Kelsey Rohr, Dominique Ross, Amy Scaringe, Kevin White. Choreography Ryan Carlough, Emily Crews, Jane Franklin, Robert J. Priore, Kelsey Rohr, and Christopher Saunders.

MONDAY/DEC. 11
The League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City pre-legislative session. 7:30 p.m. At Bozeman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 307, Arlington. Arlington County General Assembly Delegation (Senator Ebbin, Senator Favola, Delegate Hope, Delegate McClure, and Delegate Lopez) will be available to meet with the public to answer questions ahead of the 2024 legislative session. Email lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 15
Alexandria and Arlington Virginia Cooperative Extension Annual Showcase. 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street Arlington. Virginia Cooperative Extension -- Virginia tech and Virginia State University.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16
Holiday Favorites with the National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Join the National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) as they celebrate holiday cheer with renowned violinist Dylana Jenson, an evening of classical and popular favorites the entire family will enjoy. The program, filled with holiday favorites, opens with Leroy Anderson's popular Sleighride. Violinist Dylana Jenson, the first American woman, and the youngest ever to win at the prestigious Tchaikovsky Competition will be the featured guest artist. Other artists for the evening include Natasha Dukan (pianist), Dietrich Paredes (violin), Uri Wassertzug (viola), and Vasily Popov (cello).

SUNDAY/DEC. 17
Opera NOVA Annual Brunch and Concert. 12 noon. At Army Navy Country Club, Memorial Drive, Arlington. Opera NOVA Invites you to the 2023 Annual Brunch and Concert with performers: Jose Sacin, Baritone; Israel Lozano, Tenor; Evelyn Tsen, Soprano; Daarcy Monsalve, Soprano; and Tatiana Loisha, Pianist. General Admission \$100; Early Bird \$75.

Triple the Goal

Supporters of Animal Welfare League of Arlington turn out for Giving Tuesday.

At a time when so many people across the country – even in Arlington, Va. – are facing more financial challenges, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) set a “modest” goal for its Giving Tuesday fundraiser.

According to AWLA Senior Communications Specialist Chelsea Jones, the goal amount of \$12,000 was set to cover one year of expenses for the organization’s Pet Pantry, which provides pet food and essentials at no cost to pet owners who need help.

“It’s the basics,” Jones explained. “We give out dog and cat food and small amounts of food for rabbits and other smaller animals. We provide a lot of cat litter, and, when we can, we provide beds, leashes, collars and treats. They are the basic things that a pet needs to have a happy life in their home.”

By the end of Giving Tuesday, on Nov. 29, the AWLA had accumulated more than \$56,000 in donations – more than tripling its goal.

“This year is one of the highest producing Giving Tuesdays,” Jones said. “It really means a lot because we know people all over the country are struggling financially and having a hard time paying for their own necessities, let alone giving to others. So, to see the amount climb so quickly to more than \$56,000 was pretty amazing.”



AWLA’s goal of \$12,000 for Giving Tuesday was set to cover one year of expenses for the organization’s Pet Pantry, which provides pet essentials at no cost to Arlington pet owners in need.

All these funds will go to the Pet Pantry, as planned, which hundreds of community members rely on regularly to feed and otherwise care for their pets. The overwhelming generosity of supporters will allow the AWLA to do more with the Pet Pantry in 2024 – and even beyond.

“We will be able to fund the pet pantry for 2024 and for even more years following,” Jones said. “\$12,000 was the amount we set based on how many people we served this

year, but we were still running into issues. There were days we ran out of litter, for example, but now we will for sure be able to get people what they need. We’ll also be able to provide more things, like flea and tick preventatives, which we currently do when we can.

The money we raised is so important because our Pet Pantry is very utilized in the community. It’s growing more important and in demand all the time.”

“Daze” Gone By



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As of the first week in Dec. 2023, I will have been “churning out the dribble,” as my late brother, Richard, teasingly characterized my columns me a few years back, for 26 years. Almost without fail, except for one week in Aug., 15 when I was hospitalized for a week due to fluid build-up in my lungs (almost four litters worth). The fluid problem was a side effect of my cancer medication. (Imagine that, a side effect from cancer medication that nearly kills the patient. Who would have thought?) I was told by the attending physician that this side effect caused my lungs to collapse – with no guarantee that they would reinflate. Fortunately, a few days after my surgery to drain the fluid from my lungs, they miraculously re-inflated (later than the doctors had hoped/anticipated, but everybody was happy nonetheless, especially me). But then I was on my way to recuperating and the following week I was home eating solid food again and semi back to normal (‘normal’ being a relative term, as I was a lung cancer patient after all).

I have been writing a column in “The Connection” for almost exactly 26 years. Multiply the years times the 52 weeks per year the paper published means that I’ve been at this pursuit of my happiness (writing/publishing columns) without fail – except that one week I spent in SICU for my lungs (actually I did write a column that week while in hospital bed. However, I typed it on a device which due to operator error, never sent my column to the paper for publication), a grand total of 1,352 weeks/columns, if anyone is counting. And I certainly am if you’re not. Remembering that my initial (inauspicious) appearance in The Connection was hardly met with any fanfare (I was told I was filler, and a one-column inch filler at that), I summarize that beginning simply and with a nod to Bob Dylan: I was so much younger then, I’m older than that now. Thank God! And still, undergoing cancer treatment. And moreover, “still churning out the dribble.”

And I’m especially still thanking God, always a prudent precaution to take, because when I started writing this column, I was cancer-free and years away from becoming the “victim of soycumstance” you read about regularly. That unfortunate circumstance/diagnosis of stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (a terminator if there ever was one, not named Arnold Schwarzenegger) became my official reality late Feb. 2009, 12-plus years after I started publishing my slice-of-life-type column (“Daze of My Life”) in the first place. To say this diagnosis was a shock is to minimize any and all things that shock. But I persevered and though I didn’t sing it, I did invoke Diana Ross a time or two (“I will survive”). And lo and behold, here I am in 2023, slowly creeping up on my 15th “cancersary.” (You bet I’m going to “creep,” I don’t want to bring any unnecessary attention to the fact that I’m still alive, especially around Christmas where lists are often checked twice.)

Considering that a “13 month to two-years” prognosis – at age 54 and a half (out of the blue, a lifelong non-smoker, and minimal exposure to second-hand smoke), came along with the diagnosis, I figured I had to roll punches somehow and buck up and find a way to be positive about this horrifying negative. As a dear friend who exhibited this attitude would often say when prompted: “My attitude is just like my blood type: B+.” I don’t know what my blood type is exactly, but I do know what my attitude is. However, during those first few months of learning this diagnosis and then starting every-three-week chemotherapy, lab work, diagnostic scans, and face-to-face, in-person appointments, your dominant feeling/reaction to your predicament (mine anyway) is disbelief. Though I certainly was curious how this could have happened to me (given what I thought I knew about lung cancer and its cause, very little after all) I never wallowed in “woeing.” I saw no future in dwelling on the past.

And for the past 13 years, ever since I shared my diagnosis with you in my June 2010 column entitled “Dying to Tell You, Sort Of”, published approximately four months after I began treatment, I have written extensively, if not almost entirely about cancer. And oddly enough, writing about it, whether it’s good, bad, or indifferent news still gives me a lift somehow. Since I don’t woe is me, neither do I drone on about my challenges. Oh sure, I’ll update you readers about any major, potentially life-altering cancer-related news. When I do so however, it’s not important that it’s me that’s being written about (it’s never about me, really). It’s important because it’s about the cancer. As I used to say when asked about my column’s subject matter before I was diagnosed: “I’m just the driver. I’m writing about the car.”

And even though the car, metaphorically speaking, has some major problems, it’s still able to get me where I want to go. Of course the ride can get a bit bumpy at times, but I’m still driving, if you know what I mean?

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



Letters To Santa

Santa wants to hear from you. A special mailbox has been set up just for your Santa letters. Put your letter in the mailbox located outside of Gulf Branch Nature Center and Long Branch Nature Center by Dec. 23 to ensure timely delivery to the North Pole. Letters received by Dec. 18 will get a postcard from Santa. Be sure to include your home address so Santa knows where to send you a postcard. In the spirit of giving, please also bring any canned food items for the Arlington Food Assistance Center and place them in the labeled box next to the mailbox.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

transgender people and their families. Meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Contact arl.pflag@gmail.com for more or go to www.pflagdc.org

Helmets Toastmasters meet Thursdays, 7:30-8:45 a.m. at Pentagon Library and Conference Center. Toastmasters is an international organization that helps everyone speak, think, lead and listen better. Most clubs are meeting online at this time. Contact Carl Sabath carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil or 703-695-2804 or Elizabeth Femrite elizabeth.m.femrite.civ@mail.mil or 571-256-8674.

Soil Testing. Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering soil testing services to analyze soil and determine what is needed to condition soil for plantings. The routine soil test is all one normally needs for a fertility evaluation. Pick up soil sampling box at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Arlington office, 3308 S. Stafford St., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Send filled soil sample box with form and fee to the Virginia Tech Lab for analysis. Fees vary, visit www.soiltest.vt.edu/Files.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Prepared to receive the caisson horses for rest and relaxation on a temporary basis, Meadowood's grassy idyll turned out to be insufficient to meet the greater rehabilitation needs of the horses

Meadowood Pastures Still Wait for Hero Horses

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Suffering animals are not easily able to call attention to their plight, instead dependent on their caretakers to notice and react in their best interest. That includes a small group of voiceless heroes right here in Northern Virginia — the horses of the Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, "the Old Guard" Caisson Platoon. These are the horses who transport military members to their final rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Those hero horses were poorly housed, with several in poor health for some time.

The Arlington's caisson unit came under increased scrutiny in 2022, after receiving 18 "unsatisfactory" inspection reports dating from 2019. Army reports outlined unsanitary and potentially life-threatening conditions for the horses, poor-quality feed, parasites, and housing in tiny mud lots scattered with gravel, construction debris, and manure at Fort Myers and Fort Belvoir. National attention was brought to conditions in the unit in Spring 2022, when two working horses died unexpectedly within 96 hours of each other. One horse, Tony, died with 44 pounds of gravel and sand found in his gut. The second horse, Mickey, died of septic colic, which can be caused by a gastrointestinal illness or injury that has gone untreated, allowing manure or bacteria to make its way into the bloodstream and causing an infection. Two more horses of the, originally, 60 horse unit were to die within nine months of Tony and Mickey.

Following those losses, the Army sought a temporary solution for improved pasturing and increased acreage. In December 2022, it

announced a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, obtaining a five-year lease for use of land at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area on Mason Neck. Under the plan, about a dozen horses were expected to pasture there on rotation, for two weeks at a time, under full-time supervision, while not performing their shift of ceremonial funeral duty.

Continuing review of the unit's conditions early in 2023 found that the horses were living in only about 18 percent of the space recommended by equine medical practitioners. Further, 27 horses had muscle and joint injuries, as well as hoof issues, and required rehabilitation. With insufficient healthy horses available, the Army first suspended caisson services at Arlington for part of 2023, later continuing the suspension until June 2024, to provide time for rehabilitation and to make improvements. They announced plans to buy lighter weight caissons, than the 2,500 pound versions then used, and better-fitting saddles and tack to reduce the horses' musculoskeletal strain.

The Army also committed to establish a network of expert advisers and contract with new trainers and farrier, hire a new herd manager, and improve the feed, to better manage the quality of life for the horses.

Funding of \$15 million from Congress was included for the caisson platoon in the FY2023 National Defense Authority Act, passed in December 2022.



PHOTO FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

Caisson Platoon soldier and one of 25 platoon horses at Fort Belvoir.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

The acreage and new paddocks at Meadowood probably won't host caisson horses.

Meanwhile, with an agreement with BLM already in place for use of 14 acres, early in 2023, the Army had begun making improvements to prepare for the horses' rotating use of the Meadowood paddocks. Fencing, with multiple paddock sections, was added, with water troughs, hay racks, and temporary shelters. After consultation with Virginia's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, pesticides were applied to target Milkweed and other plants growing in the meadows that are toxic to horses. By May, the scene at Meadowood looked idyllic and ready for horses in need of rest and space. But the horses never arrived.

"The pastureland at Meadowood was never a permanent option, but a short-term

solution while the Army developed its plans for long-term facilities and high-quality care for its animals," the Army's Public Affairs office explains. "The contracted equine facilities that the Caisson Platoon are currently utilizing provide tailored professional fitness training, quarantine for new horse arrivals, training areas, and rehabilitative care for horses not available in the pastures at Meadowood. The Army continues to work with BLM on the way ahead for Meadowood, and while it remains an option, the property does not meet the Army's immediate needs for the Caisson Platoon."

The Platoon is currently using stabling and pasturing at three locations: its mission support site at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington; an exclusively contracted 37-acre equine fitness and training center near Aldie Va. in Loudoun County; and a rehabilitation care facility, Foxhall Equine, in Fallston Maryland. The herd is now at 53 horses. Twenty-three are in rehabilitation at Foxhall, 25 are at the Aldie facility, and five are working at Myer.

The 37 grassy acres near Aldie provide much more room to stretch than their former crowded paddock. The Maryland rehabilitation facility is spa-like, with available treatments such as hydrotherapy, aqua-tread, salt room, laser therapies, and a solarium.

Life is significantly better now for all the horses, thanks to the public and Congressional interest in their plight, and the Army's responsive action.